

J Sloper & Co Ltd - the date 'Blitzed'

Stephen Steere

The month of May in 1941 is always shown as being when Slopers premises in Budge Row, London, EC4 was 'Blitzed'.

As I am one for the full dates I have asked what day in May, but no one has been able to give me firm evidence. I spent much time at the City of London Guildhall Library and Archives trying to find out, as well as visiting the Public Record Centre in Kew. I even found a picture of a damaged Budge Row after the raids but found the photographer had his back to Slopers premises!

The evidence pointed to the 10th & 11th of May 1941, when that part of London suffered heavily from damage after raids, but I could not pinpoint the day that Slopers were bombed.

In 1991 when the Society was able to purchase records from Slopers I found amongst them three company account ledger books that were locked. As this only listed financial expenditure they were not thought important and a suggestion was made that they should be destroyed. As I am a 'squirrel' I kept them until such time they could be opened and inspected.

One of our Society members recently found a key that would open the book and I had a brief look through but saw nothing much of interest. However with the recent audit by the Society of records and items held by members, it made me have a more thorough look as, again, it was suggested these books may not be worth keeping.

Tucked away on one page of the book that commenced 1 October 1941 was a subject previously missed, occupying one line on a page and titled "**Office War Damage Claim Account**". Written in pencil at the top of the page was "For replacement of stamps destroyed 10/5/41 see stamps A/C To: 94 Old Ledger".

To me this is the proof that Slopers were bombed on the 10th May 1941

COUNCIL PERFINS

Stephen Steere

I am still collating information on Councils towards the final goal of achieving a published list.

I would be grateful if anyone who has a proving cover of a Council could let me have dates of usage where this has not already been shown in the New Catalogue. In addition there are dies that are already shared by more than one user and I need to be able to specify the dates for the individual user.

I am hoping to be able to show each councils coat of arms, not a small task, so if you have an illustration I would be grateful for a copy or send it to me and I will copy it and return.

If anyone would like an up to date draft listing of the councils known so far then please contact me. I can send it via E-mail; my address is :- **steve-steere@ic24.net** or by post, (address in "Single Letter Provisionals" article) but please enclose 50p in stamps/perfins to cover the postage and printing. I can put the list in a straightforward alphabetical list or in County order whatever is your preference.